



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney's Office
District of Delaware*

*The Nemours Building
1007 N. Orange Street, Suite 700
P.O. Box 2046
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2046*

*(302) 573-6277
FAX (302) 573-6220*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Colm F. Connolly
United States Attorney
(302) 573-6277 x 120

PRESS RELEASE

FORMER FIRE COMPANY TREASURER ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

STOLEN FUNDS ALLEGED TO TOTAL \$288,707

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly today announced the arrest of Harry V. McMullen, 41, the former treasurer of the Cranston Heights Fire Company in Wilmington, Delaware. McMullen was arrested pursuant to a federal warrant issued after a federal grand jury indicted McMullen on sixteen counts of wire fraud.

According to the Indictment, between October 2003, and January 2005, McMullen, who held the position of treasurer of the fire company from December 2001 until February 2005, stole money from the company by taking nearly 600 cash withdrawals from two of the company's bank accounts using ATM cards McMullen had obtained without the knowledge or approval of the fire company's officers or board of directors. McMullen had opened the two bank accounts in question in August 2003 without the knowledge of the fire company's accountant. The unauthorized cash withdrawals alleged in the Indictment total \$288,707.75. As alleged in the Indictment, McMullen did not redeposit the money into any of the company's bank accounts, nor did he use the money for the company's benefit.

U.S. Attorney Connolly said of the case: "Delawareans rely on our volunteer fire companies to protect our families and homes. We are grateful for the courage and sacrifices of fire company volunteers and we show our support and gratitude for our fire companies through private donations and government grants. A volunteer fire company in our State is as much a public entity as any government agency. When an officer of a fire company steals company funds to line his own pockets, he abuses not only the trust of his fellow firefighters, but the trust of the public as well."

The case was investigated by Detective Christian Brown of the Delaware State Police. Special agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, assisted in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Beth Moskow-Schnoll is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, McMullen faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each count.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

For additional information, please contact Public Information Officer Kimberlyn Reeves at 302-573-6277, ext. 146.

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